

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 06447 251819Z

21

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SUBJECT: MEETING OF COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND CULTURAL
RELATIONS, NOVEMBER 21, 1975

REFS: A. USNATO A-177

B. USNATO A-184

SUMMARY: DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION PROPOSES THAT NATO
INFORMATION SERVICE PREPARE REGULAR HIGHLIGHTS SUMMARY OF
MEDIA DEVELOPMENTS IN SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE.
ITALIAN REP CRITICIZES INFORMATION SERVICE FOR HAVING
DIRECTLY INVITED ITALIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE DELEGATE TO RECENT
NATO FILM FORUM WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH ITALIAN
DELEGATION TO NATO. DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SUPPORTED BY UK
REP URGES MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT FULL AMOUNT OF
BUDGET REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ; NORWEGIAN, BELGIAN AND US
US REPS SAY THAT IN CONTEXT OF OVERALL BUDGET CUTS, REDUCTIONS IN
INFORMATION SERVICE BUDGET REQUEST DID NOT SEEM UNJUST.
END SUMMARY.

1. NATO INFORMATION PROBLEMS INCLUDING ANTI WESTERN
PROPAGANDA

A. NORWEGIAN REP NOTED HIGHLIGHTS OF MOST RECENT
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PAGE 02 NATO 06447 251819Z

AFTENPOSTEN POLL ON PUBLIC ATTITUDES IN NORWAY TOWARD NATO.
THE POLL SHOWED THAT 69PCT OF THOSE QUESTIONED SAID THAT THEY
BELIEVED THAT NATO WOULD COME TO NORWAYS AID IN CASE OF ATTACK;
23PCT SAID THAT THEY DOUBTED THIS WOULD BE THE CASE, AND

8PCT EXPRESSED NO OPINION.

B. US REP (RADDY) CIRCULATED USIA WIRELESS FILE ITEM EUR-44 OF SEPTEMBER 10, 1975 ENTITLED " US POLLSTERS SAY AMERICANS REMAIN INTERNATINALISTS." RADDAY SAID HE WAS CIRCULATING THIS ITEM BECAUSE HARRIS POLL DONE FOR CHICAGO COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATINS ALMOST A YEAR AGO HAD BEEN TAKEN BY SO MANY EUROPENS TO INDICATE STRONGLY INCREASING ISOLATIONIST TREND IN UNITED STATES. HE SAID HE THOUGHT MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE WOULD FIND THIS ARTICLE INTERSTING IN THAT IT SHOWED THAT NINE OF THE TEN LEADING AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION POLLSTERS AND ANALYSTS HAD TOLD US SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE THAT IN THEIR VIEW AMERICANS REMAINED INTERNALTIONALISTS AND SEEK DEEP NATIONAL COMMITMENT IN WORLD AFFAIRS.

C. UK REP AND DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION KOREN SPOKE ABOUT SWB (SUMMARY OF WORLD BROADCASTS), BI WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF THE MONITORING SERVICE OF THE BBC. PULBLICATION CONTAINS EXTENSIVE SUMMARIES OF NEWS AND COMMENTARY BRAODCAST OVER GOVERNMENT RADIO SERVICES IN SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUORPE, KOREN PROPOSED THAT NATO INFORMATION SERVICE RECEIVE THESE PUBLICATIONS AND PREPARE REGULAR HIGHLIGHTS SUMMARY FOR CURCULATION TO MEMBERS OF INFORMATION COMMITTEE.

D. CANADIAN REP CIRCULATED TWO PRESS REPORTING CABLES FROM CANADIAN EMBASSY IN MOSCOW AS EXAMPLES OF WHAT HE COULD PROVIDE REGULARLY TO MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE. KOREN NOTED THAT SUCH INFORMATION COULD ALSO BE INCLUDED IN HIGHLIGHTS SUMMARY WHICH HE PROPOSED TO PREPARE ON BASIS OF SWB PUBLICATIONS.

E. BELGIAN, CANADIAN ITALIAN AND UK REPS EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR KORENS PROPOSAL OF REGULAR HIGHLIGHT SUMMARIES OF MEDIA DEVELOPMENTS IN SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE.

F. RADDAY SAID KORENS PROPOSAL SEEMED LIKE A GOOD ONE. REFERRING TO ITEM THREE ONTHE DAYS AGENDA, HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT THE NATO INFORMATION SERVICES BUDGET FOR FISCAL AND CALENDAR YEAR 1976 WAS LIKELY TO BE SUBSTANTIALY BLEOW THE AMOUNT REQUESTED AND ASKED WHETHER INVUEW OF POSSIBLE PROGRAM OR EVEN STAFF REDUCTIONS FOR THE INFORMATION SERVICE, THE COMMITTEE THOUFHT IT ADVISABLE FOR THE INFORMATION SERVICE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PAGE 03 NATO 06447 251819Z

TO UNDERTAKE SUCH A NEW AND POTENTIALLY TIMECONSUMING ACTIVITY. PORTUGUESE REP SAID THAT HIS IMPRESSION WAS THAT THIS EXCHANGE OF MEDIA REPORTING WOULD LARGELY DUPLICATE WORK DONE IN NATO POLITICAL COMMITTEE.

G. KOREN INSISTED THAT INFORMATION SERVICES REPORT WOULD HAVE DIFFERENT EMPHASIS AND WOULD NOT DUPLICATE THE WORK OF THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE. BESIDES THAT HE SAID, PROJECT WOULD COST NO MONEY AND JUST SMALL AMOUNT OF STAFF TIME.

H. KOREN SAID HE WOULD UNDERTAKE THIS PROJECT ON TRIAL BASIS.

2. FOLLOW UP TO RECENT MEETINGS.

A. FILM FORUM. KOREN CIRCULATED INFORMATION SERVICES REPORT ON THIS MEETING (REF B; FOR US DELEGATIONS REPORT SEE REF A).

B. ITALIAN REP RAISED VIGOROUS OBJECTION TO PROCUDURES USED IN INVITING ITALIAN DELEGATION. HE SAID THAT WHILE ITALIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAD INDICATED IT WOULD NOT SEND DELEGATION TO FORUM, NATIS HAD, WITHOUT CONSULTING ITALINA DEL-EGATION, MADE CONTACT WITH ITALIAN MILITARY AUTHORITIES AND SECURED PARTICIPATION OF ITALINA MILITARY DELEGATE. ITALIAN REP SAID THAT HE WISHED IT TO BE RECORDED IN MINUTES OF THIS CICR MEETING THAT IT WAS IMPORPER PROCEDURE FOR NATIS TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH NATIONAL AUTHORITES OF A MEMBER COUNTRY WITHOUT CONSULTING ITS NATIONAL DELEGATION TO NATO AND THAT THIS SHOULD NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN.

C. KOREN SAID THAT HIS OFFICE HAD OPERATED ON ASSUMPTION THAT SINCE ITALY HAD AGREED TO HLDING OF FILM FORUM IT WOULD WNAT TO BE REPRESENTED AT THIS EVENT. KOREN SAID HE HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED OF DECISION OF ITALIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HE SAID THAT SINCE THIS WAS MEETING OF FIL MAKERS RATHER THAN FILM POLICY MAKERS HIS FILMS FFICE HAD CONSIDERED IT NORMAL PROCEDURE TO ISSUE INVITATIONS TO WORKING LEVEL COUNTERPART IN VARIOUS MINISTERIES OF DEFENSE.

D. KOREN WAS APPARENTLY TOTALLY SURPRISED BY THIS ITALIAN INTERVENTION AND SAID HE FELT SUCH A REBUKE WAS INAPPROPRIATE. BELGAIN REP THEN SIAD THAT HER DELEGATION HAD ALSO EXPERIENCED DIFFICULTY CAUSED BY INFORMATION SERVICES PROACTICE OF CONTACTING BELGIAN MINISTRY OFFICIALS WITOUT FIRST CONSUTING WITH BELAINA DELEGATION TO NATO. WHILE STILL NOT DIRECTLY ACKNOWLEDGING JUSTICE ORAPPROPARATENESS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PAGE 04 NATO 06447 251819Z

ITALIAN CAHRGE, KOREN DID INDICATE THAT INFORMATION SERVICE WOULD PRACTIVE PROPOER PROCEDURES IN REGARD TO CONSULTING WITH NATIONAL DELEGATIONS BEFORE CONTACTING MINISTRY OFFICIALS IN CAPITALS.

E. ATLANTIC TREATY ASSOCIATION ASSEMBLY
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION JOHN VERNON SAID HE FOUND THE RECENT ASSEMBLY OF THE ATLANTIC TREATY ASSOCIATION IN PARIS MOST WORTHWHILE AND THAT HE WOULD SOON CIRCULATE HIS REPORT TO MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE (MISSION WILL FORWARD BY AIRGRAM).

3. INFORMATION BUDGET 1976

KOREN URGED MEMBERS TO TRY TO GET THEIR DELEGATIONS TO SUPPORT AS HIGH AN INFORMATION BUDGET AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER THAT INFORMATION SERVICES RESPONSIBILITES BE FULLY AND EFFECTIVELY CARRIED OUT. NORWEGINA REP SAID THAT IN CONTEXT OF NECESSARY REDUCTIONS IN OVERALL NATO BUDGET HE THOUGHT THAT INFORMATION WAS QUITE FAIRLY TREATED IN RECEIVING 65 MILLION BELGIAN FRANCS (UP FROM 61 MILLION BELGIN FRANCS LAST YEAR BUT UNDER THE 69 MILLION BELGIAN FRANCS REQUESTED FOR 1976) WHICH IS AN INCREASE OF 6 1/2 PCT. BELGIAN AND US REPS SUPPORTED THIS POSITION.

UK REP SUPPORTED KOREN DESIRE FOR FULL INCREASE TO 69
MILLION. BRUCE

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